



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO MEN INDICTED FOR METH CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California man and an Aurora, Mo., man were indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine.

David Anthony Torres, 26, of West Covina, Calif., and **Gerard James Douez**, 37, of Aurora, Mo., were charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Torres** and **Douez** conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine in Barry County, Mo., from January 2002 to Sept. 4, 2003.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Douez** attempted to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine in Barry County on July 24, 2003.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Torres** used the United States mail to facilitate the attempt to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, which was contained in a package addressed to **Douez's** residence, and that **Torres** used and caused the United States mail to be used for the purpose of distributing methamphetamine on July 24, 2003.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Douez**, while using or addicted to methamphetamine, was in possession of a Ruger P97 .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol and ammunition between Jan. 2 and July 24, 2003, in Barry County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user or addicted to a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and

not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Monett, Mo., Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Postal Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow